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LETTER DATED 19 APRIL 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward, enclosed herewith, the aide-mémoire on humanitarian consequences of the aggression of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (see annex).

I should be very grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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Annex

Aide-mémoire on humanitarian consequences of the aggression of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

In addition to committing an attack on a sovereign and independent country, by its aggression of 24 March 1999, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has threatened international peace and security, grossly violated the Charter of the United Nations and the international legal system and caused one of the biggest humanitarian catastrophes in the world since the establishment of the United Nations.

By enlisting enormous military might and by aerial bombardment of the population of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, its infrastructure and economic potentials, NATO has brazenly dropped more than 5,000 tons of the most destructive explosives and used cluster bombs banned by international law, causing enormous human casualties and vast material destruction.

As a consequence of the 25-day incessant bombardment, the entire population of Yugoslavia has been threatened, 700,000 refugees from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially children, the elderly and persons under special social care. The living conditions have dramatically worsened for all 11 million citizens of Yugoslavia who have been forced to flee to shelters and basements and leave places of permanent residence every day since the beginning of the aggression.

The outright destruction of numberless economic facilities has lastingly deprived hundreds of thousands of workers of their jobs, threatening their existence and the existence of about 2 million members of their families. Continued bombing hampers normal economic activities and public services almost in all fields of labour, especially in the field of industry, mining, transport and agriculture, in particular at the peak of spring planting season. Specifically, countless pharmaceutical plants and the most important health institutions in Belgrade and other cities and towns of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have been raided and destroyed, whereby the health of the population of the entire country has been directly jeopardized. As an example, hospitals, health centres and maternity wards in Belgrade, Pristina, Cuprija, Aleksinac, Nis, Novi Sad, Cacak, Ivanjica and in a number of other cities and towns have been either damaged or destroyed.

Hundreds of thousands of people have lost their homes because of the demolition of housing, while the destruction of communication lines, bridges, railroads, stations, airports, public institutions, kindergartens, schools and universities has impeded the everyday life of the population and its regular supply with basic provisions. Education of about 800,000 pupils and students has been discontinued. The destruction of a heating plant alone, which provides heating to one half of the population of Belgrade, has threatened the survival of 1 million inhabitants of the capital. The destruction of a bridge, the historical monument on the Danube in Novi Sad, has accounted for the destruction

of the regional water supply system and 600,000 people have been left without drinking water in a single destructive raid.

Use of exceptionally destructive ammunition, including the one banned by international conventions in force, and the bombing of oil refineries and chemical industry raw material warehouses, as well as oil and ammonia storages (Belgrade, Pancevo, Novi Sad, Smederevo, Guca) and a number of other chemical plants have caused a vast ecological catastrophe with long-lasting consequences, both for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and for other countries of the region, including in Europe and the Mediterranean.

The crimes of the aggression are evinced also by the data about direct hits at hospitals and other health institutions, refugee convoys, kindergartens, schools, passenger trains, cars, hotels and youth hostels. Cultural and historical monuments, many of them under the protection of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, have not been spared either.

Aggression against, and the massive bombing and systematic destruction of, cities such as Pristina, Prizren, Pec, Djakovica, Nis, Novi Sad and others have caused exodus, displacement and created refugees within the country and in neighbouring countries, in which, as in Macedonia for instance, there had been no refugees before.

The situation has dramatically worsened for 700,000 refugees from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina whom Yugoslavia has sheltered for a number of years. Refugee centres have been directly hit, particularly in Pristina, Kursumlija and Kula. NATO bombs have killed a great number of refugees, while an even greater number have been injured.

Since, in the situation of the incessant aggression of NATO and round-the-clock aerial bombardment, it is not possible at this moment to ascertain the exact scope of material and other damage and the number of people who lost their lives and were buried under the debris up until 18 April 1999, only the damage and consequences eyewitnessed by the public, including numerous world media which reported them, are provided in the aide-mémoire.

Civilian casualties

From the beginning of the NATO aggression until 14 April 1999, over 6,000 NATO criminal attacks have been carried out in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Seven hundred aircraft have been used in these attacks, 53 of them combat aircraft, over 1,500 cruise missiles have been launched and over 5,000 tons of bombs dropped.

Over 500 civilians have been killed in these attacks, while more than 4,000 have been gravely wounded. The most extensive loss of life has occurred in Kursumlija, Pancevo, Cacak, Kragujevac, Vranje, Aleksinac, Orahovac, Pristina, Grdelica Gorge and in two refugee convoys on the Djakovica-Prizren road, when about 75 women, children and enfeebled people lost their lives in a bombing of a few hours by NATO aircraft.

Three million children in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have been threatened with the consequences of war and NATO criminal bombing.

Following these barbarian attacks, hundreds of thousands of citizens were exposed to gas poisoning, which may leave lasting consequences on the overall health of the population and on the environment, both in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and in the region, including the entire continent and the Mediterranean.

Following the destruction of the Petrovaradin Bridge, Novi Sad and Petrovaradin have been left without water (600,000 citizens) since the magistral and city water supply systems were built into the bridge, while water supply systems catering to about 1 million people have been destroyed by bombing all over the country.

The total destruction of economic capacities all over Yugoslavia has deprived 500,000 workers of their jobs, whereby 2 million citizens have been left completely without any income whatsoever or the possibility to ensure minimum living conditions. The effects are already felt in the worsening of general living conditions, nutrition, housing and health protection of the enormous part of the population of the entire country.

Material damage is enormous and, according to the most rudimentary estimates, exceeds a few billion dollars.

Hospitals and health centres

The NATO air force has targeted hospitals and other health institutions. They have been either damaged or even completely destroyed. Amongst them are:

- Hospital and the health centre in the area of Leskovac;
- Hospital and the University Hospital in Nis;
- Gerontological centre in Leskovac;
- General hospital in Djakovica;
- City hospital in Novi Sad;
- Gynaecological/obstetric clinic, University Hospital Centre in Belgrade;
- Neuro-psychiatric hospital "Dr. Laza Lazarevic" and the central pharmacy of the emergency ward in Belgrade;
- Military Medical Academy in Belgrade;
- Health centre and the emergency ward in Aleksinac;
- Saint Sava Hospital in Belgrade;

- Health centre in Kraljevo;
- Clinic on Mount Zlatibor;
- Health centre at Rakovica;
- Orthopaedic hospital in Belgrade;
- Maternity hospital "Savski Venac" in Belgrade.

Schools

More than 190 schools, university buildings and day-care institutions have been destroyed or damaged all over Yugoslavia (over 20 faculties, 6 colleges, 40 secondary and 80 primary schools, 6 dormitories), such as:

- Primary school "16 October" and "Vladimir Rolovic" in Belgrade;
- Petlovo brdo housing estate kindergarten in Belgrade;
- Kindergarten in Nis;
- Two secondary schools in the area of Nis;
- Primary schools "Toza Markovic", "Djordje Matosevic", "Veljko Vlahovic", "Sangaj" and "Djura Danicic"; creche "Duga" and Visarionova Street and Sangaj kindergartens; transportation school centre and the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad;
- Four primary and one secondary medical school in the area of Leskovac;
- Two primary and one secondary school and the sports arena, health centre and a dentist's clinic in Cuprija;
- Primary school at Lucani and a number of schools in Kosovo and Metohija;
- Faculties of Law and Economics and the primary school "Radoje Domanovic" in Nis;
- Primary schools in Kraljevo and the villages of Cvetke, Aketa and Ladjevci;
- Primary schools "Ivo Lola Ribar", "A. Mrazovic" and "N. Vukicevic" in Sombor;
- Primary school "Nikola Tesla" at Kljajicevo;
- School centre in Kula;

- Primary school and the secondary school of mechanical engineering at Rakovica.

Traffic

Extensive damage has been done to roads and railroads. Specially targeted have been road and railroad bridges, out of which 11 have been completely destroyed, while 11 have been heavily damaged.

By the destruction of the bridges across the Danube, river traffic on this waterway and the shortest connection between the North and the Mediterranean Seas has come to a complete standstill.

Economic and civilian facilities, public institutions

In the air strikes thus far, a few thousand economic facilities and housing units have been either damaged or destroyed. Over 3,500 plants and houses have been destroyed in the Leskovac area alone.

The NATO forces carried out the largest destruction of housing in Pristina, Novi Sad, Aleksinac, Djakovica, Prokuplje, Gracanica, Cuprija and elsewhere. Civilian facilities in the Belgrade suburbs of Kijevo-Knezevac, Batajnica, Jakovo, Borca and in the vicinity of Pancevo have been attacked.

Five hundred homes have been destroyed at Cuprija. The same number has been destroyed at Aleksinac and 5,000 people have been rendered homeless in these two small towns.

Industry and trade

The aggressor NATO force targets were civilian factories and industrial capacities that cater directly to the needs of the population.

Agriculture

Several thousand hectares of arable land has been damaged by the bombing. Fertilizer plants have been damaged and stocks destroyed whereby food production has been jeopardized. Many private farms and agro-industrial complexes have been destroyed:

- Agro-industrial complex at Kursumlija;
- Agro-industrial complex at Gnjilane;
- Agricultural complex "Malizgan" at Dolac;
- Agricultural complex "Djuro Strugar" in Kula;

- Over 260 hectares of woodland have been destroyed in fires caused by NATO bombs all over Yugoslavia;

- Several thousand hectares of arable land, many rivers, lakes and subterranean waters have been polluted by the spillover of oil derivatives and chemicals.

Public institutions and housing estates

Tens of thousands of housing units have been damaged or destroyed all over Yugoslavia, the most glaring examples being the destruction of apartment blocks in downtown Aleksinac (500 housing units), in Cuprija (500 housing units), in Pristina, Kraljevo, Rakovica, Nis, Kragujevac and other cities and towns. Many public institutions have also been destroyed:

- Post office building in Pristina on 7 April 1999;

- Refugee collection centre in Pristina on 7 April 1999;

- Ski centre "Tornik" on Mount Zlatibor on 8 April 1999;

- Mountain resort "Divcibare" on 11 April 1999;

- Hotel "Baciste" on Mount Kopaonik on 12 April 1999;

- Heating plant in Krusevac on 12 and 13 April 1999;

- Heating plant in Novi Beograd on 13 April 1999;

- Meteorological station on Mount Kopaonik on 13 April 1999;

- Four public libraries at Rakovica on 16 April 1999;

- Refugee centre "7 July" in Paracin.

Cultural and historical monuments and places of worship

Monasteries and places of worship

- Monastery of Gracanica (XIV century) on 24 March 1999;

- Monastery at Rakovica (XVII century) on 29 March 1999;

- Patriarchate of Pec on 1 April 1999;

- Church at Jelasnica near Surdulica on 4 April 1999;

- Convent of the Church of Saint George at Petrovaradin built in 1714 on 1 April 1999;

- Monastery of Our Lady (XII century) at the confluence of River Kosanica and River Toplica in the area of Kursumlija on 4 April 1999;

- Monastery of St. Nicholas (XII century) in the area of Kursumlija on 4 April 1999;

- Monastery of Archangel Gabriel in Zemun on 6 April 1999;

- Catholic Church of Saint Anthony in Djakovica on 29 March 1999;

- Orthodox cemetery in Gnjilane on 30 March 1999;

- Monument at Bogutovac on 6 April 1999;

- "Kadinjaca" memorial complex on 8 April 1999;

- Monastery of Vojlovica near Pancevo on 12 April 1999;

- Monastery of Hopovo (damage of iconostasis) on 12 April 1999;

- Orthodox cemetery in Pristina on 12 April 1999;

- Church of the Monastery of Archangel Michael on 16 April 1999;

Cultural and historical monuments and museums

- Heavy damage to the roof of Petrovaradin Fortress on 1 April 1999;

- Heavy damage to Tabacki Bridge in Djakovica, four centuries old, on 5 April 1999;

- Heavy damage to old downtown of Djakovica on 6 April 1999;

- Destroyed archives stored in a public building in Belgrade on 3 April 1999;

- Memorial complex at Gucevo (Loznica);

- Memorial park "Sumarice" in Kragujevac;

- Museum of Vojvodina in Novi Sad;

- Old military barracks in Kragujevac, protected by State, on 16 April 1999;

- Old Bridge in Novi Sad, the symbol of the killing of Serbs and Jews in 1941.

The humanitarian catastrophe in Kosovo and Metohija and the entire Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been caused by the aggression of NATO. It is telling proof of the consequences of the violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the breach of international law. Furthermore, by abusing its military

might, NATO has threatened international peace and security, dealing the heaviest blow to international relations and the international legal order since the Second World War.

If the humanitarian catastrophe is to be solved soon and effectively, NATO must stop its aggression immediately. The Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Government of the Republic of Serbia have issued a public call to displaced persons and refugees to return safely to their homes. Beginning from 6 April 1999, the Yugoslav Government has declared a cessation of all anti-terrorist activities in Kosovo and Metohija, which is an important step for a successful solution of humanitarian problems. On 6 April 1999, the Vice-President of the Federal Government, Nikola Sainovic, and Dr. Ibrahim Rugova reached an agreement on joined involvement in creating conditions for the return of displaced persons and refugees, as well as on the solution of other humanitarian issues in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Yugoslav humanitarian organizations.